NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Quarterly Summary 2006
April, May, June
Volume 23, Numbers 4-6

APRIL-JUNE CONDITIONS

By David Walker

Western Nevada

April was a month of variable weather. Several low-pressure systems moved along the west coast during the month. Snow fell in Reno on the 16th and 17th and the high temperature for Easter this year was colder than the preceding Christmas for only the forth time in recorded history. Pressure slowly built up in the last half of the month with occasional low-pressure systems bringing rain to the region. The month's precipitation was well above normal at 1.88 inches (1.53 inches above normal). Temperatures were back to normal by the end of the month.

The first half of May high pressure dominated. Snow levels were high and snowmelt was rapid. During the middle of May unsettled weather brought thunderstorms to the area. A drastic change occurred around Memorial Day when a cold low moved in from the northwest. Snow and wind gusts of 39 mph were reported at the Reno airport on the 26th and 27th. Despite this, May had below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.

High temperatures in the first half of June were 10 to 15° above normal because of high pressure set up over the region. A high temperature of 102° was recorded in Reno on the 25th of the month. Dry thunderstorms sparked fires in Washoe County in late June. These storms did nothing to bring the monthly precipitation amounts up to normal.

Eastern Nevada

April brought numerous episodes of disturbed weather to the area for half of the month. A few thunderstorms caused downpours scattered throughout the region. Precipitation and temperature were above normal for April in Eastern Nevada.

May began cool because of a broad trough bringing northerly flow over the area. High pressure then built in for mid-month providing above normal temperatures. A strong low pressure system originating south of the Aleutian Islands pushed southeast and caused snow levels to drop to 6000 feet in northeastern Nevada. The whole of the northern Nevada recorded low temperatures around Memorial Day. Overall for the month temperatures were above normal while precipitation was below normal.

There were two primary precipitation events for the month of June in eastern Nevada. Cold fronts moved through the territory on the 8th and 9th and at mid month. In the later half of the month convective precipitation took over with afternoon and evening thunderstorms. The temperature was above normal and the precipitation was below normal once again for this month.

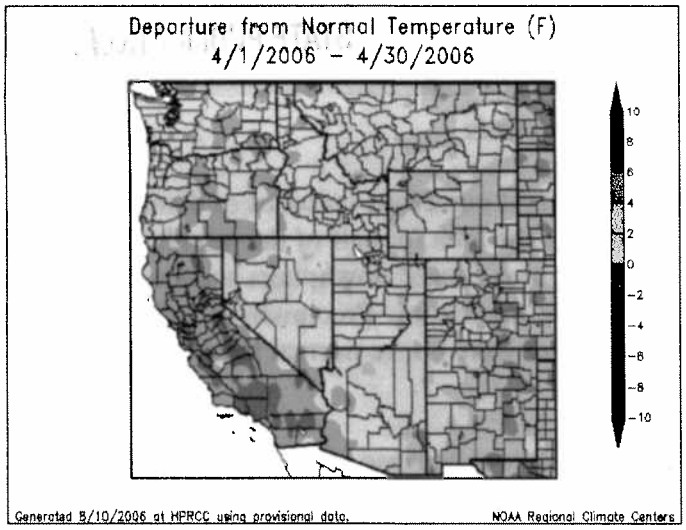
Southern Nevada

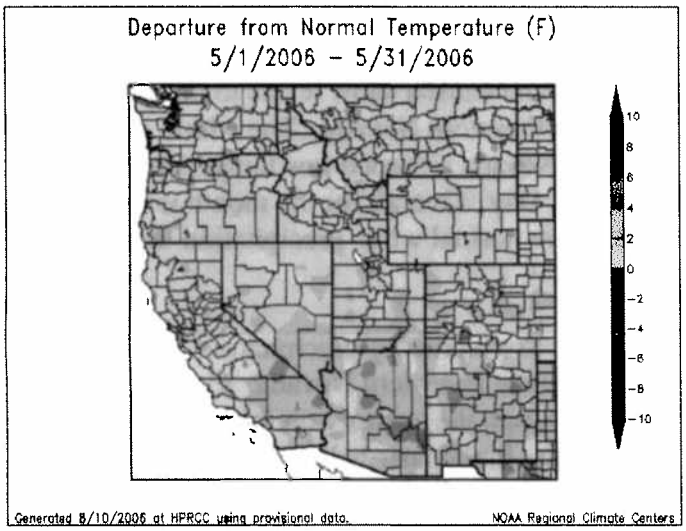
April in the Mojave Desert was drier than normal but with near normal temperatures. May saw a continuation of dry conditions. In fact, for the

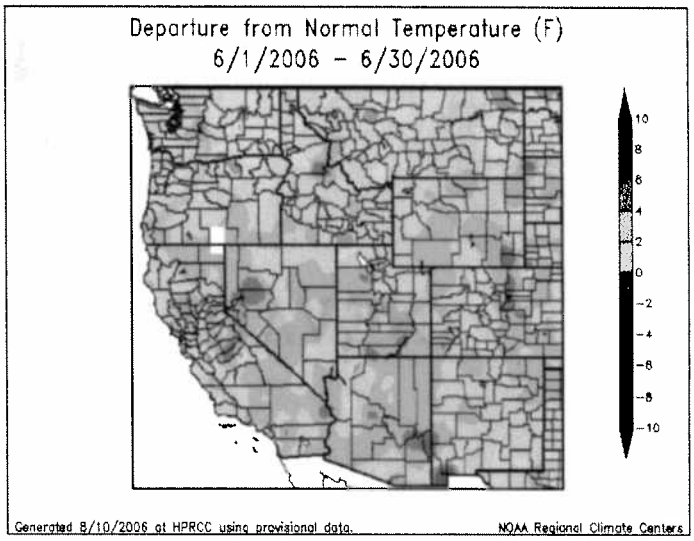
period January 1 thru May 31 Las Vegas received .27 inches of rain, which made for the 8th driest start to a year.

Finally monsoon moisture started to appear at the end of June. Even with this, the precipitation was below normal for the month of June. Flash flood warnings were posted northwestern Arizona but none were actually reported. There were numerous isolated thunderstorms that dropped .5 to .75 inches of rain.

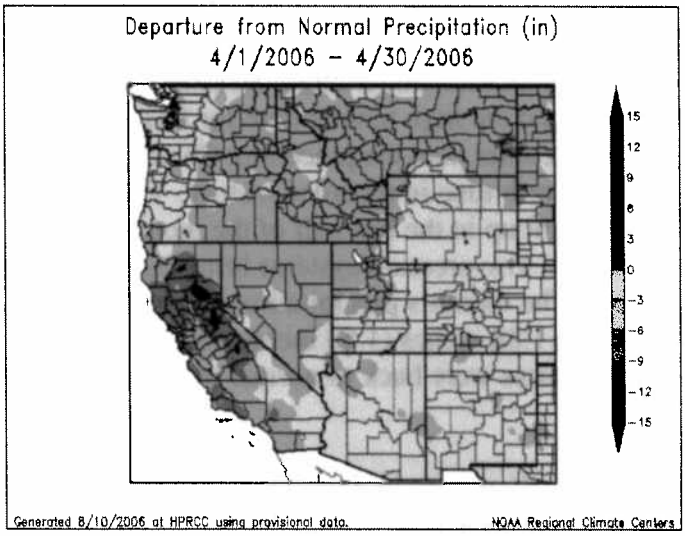
Temperature Departures

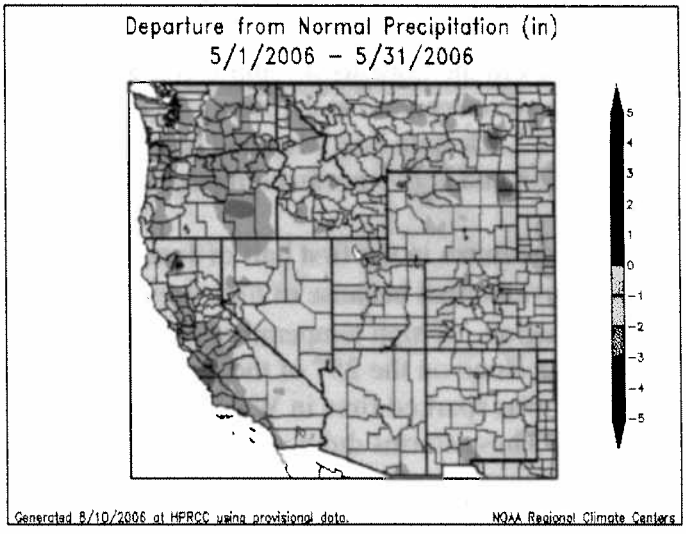


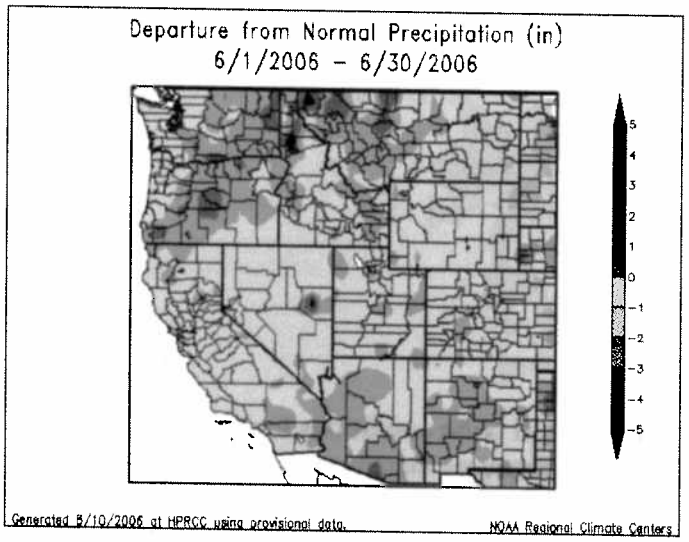




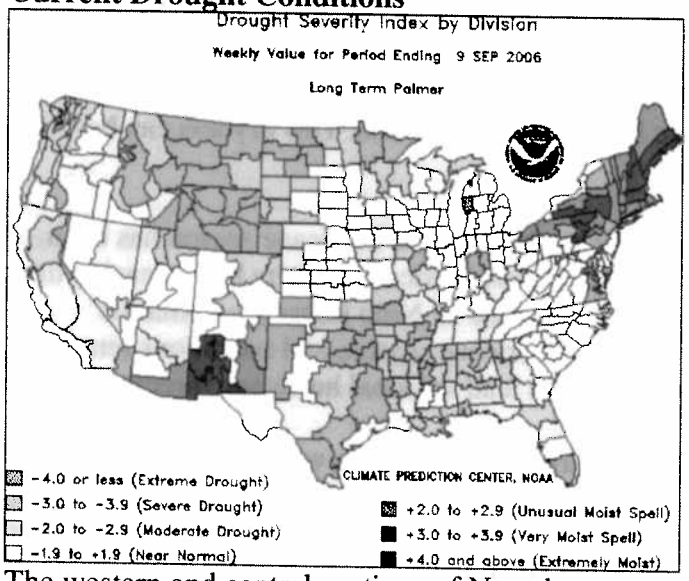
Precipitation Departures





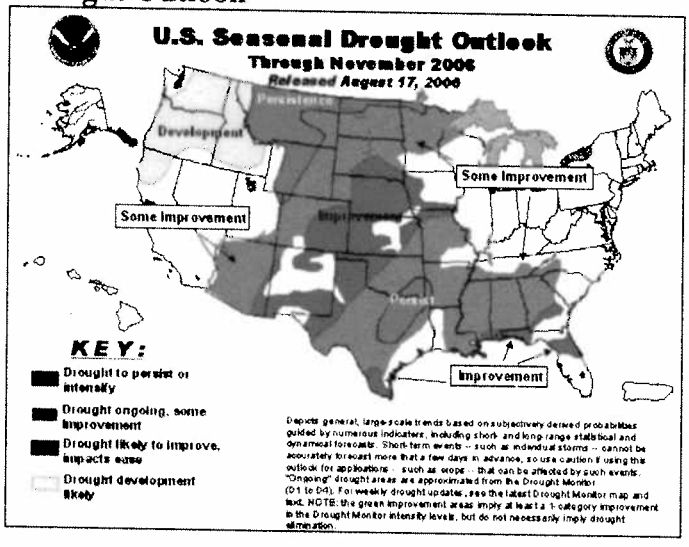


Current Drought Conditions



The western and central portions of Nevada are near normal precipitation. Eastern and southern Nevada is enduring a moderate drought.

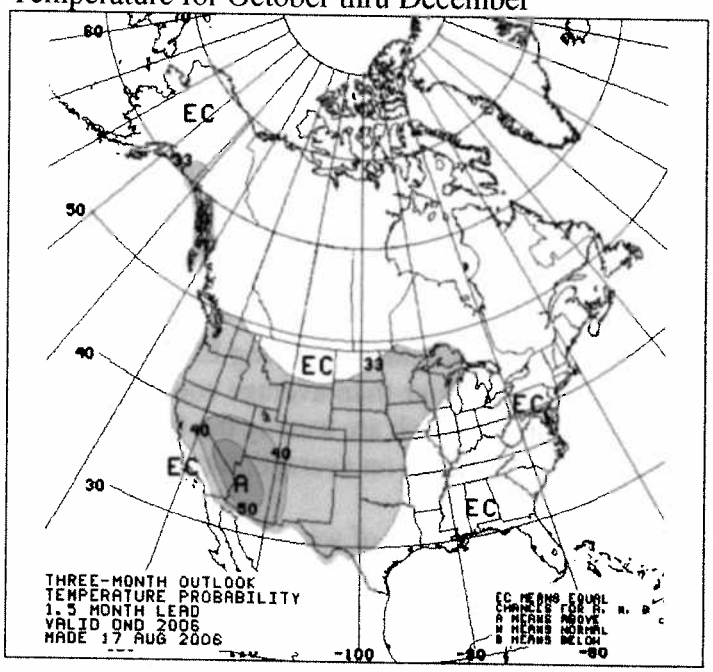
Drought Outlook



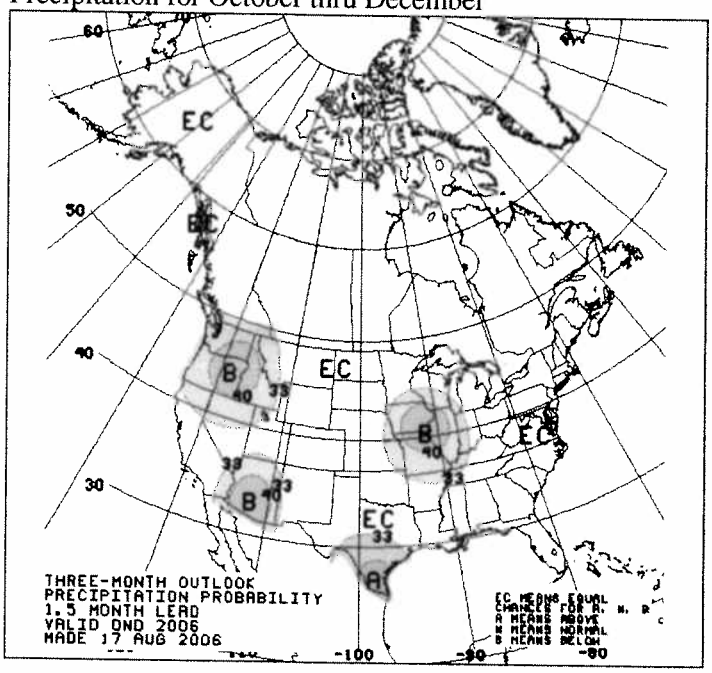
The outlook for Nevada is good. This map shows continued improvement in drought conditions.

Official Seasonal Forecast from the Climate Prediction Center

Temperature for October thru December



Precipitation for October thru December



FEATURE ARTICLE:
El Nino Makes a Comeback
NOAA Magazine, September 13, 2006

Scientists at the NOAA Climate Prediction Center reported today that El Niño conditions have developed in the tropical Pacific and are likely to continue into early 2007. Ocean temperatures increased remarkably in the equatorial Pacific during the last two weeks. "Currently, weak El Niño conditions exist, but there is a potential for this event to strengthen into a moderate event by winter," said Vernon Kousky, NOAA's lead El Niño forecaster.

Some impacts from the developing El Niño are already evident in the pattern of tropical precipitation. During the last 30 days, drier-than-average conditions have been observed across all of Indonesia, Malaysia and most of the Philippines, which are usually the first areas to experience ENSO-related impacts. This dryness can be expected to continue, on average, for the remainder of 2006.

Also, the development of weak El Niño conditions helps explain why this Atlantic hurricane season has been less active than was previously expected. El Niño typically acts to suppress hurricane activity by increasing the vertical wind shear over the Caribbean Sea region. However, at this time the El Niño impacts on Atlantic hurricanes are small. "We are still in the peak months of the Atlantic hurricane season, and conditions remain generally conducive for hurricane formation," said Gerry Bell, NOAA's lead seasonal hurricane forecaster.

Typical El Niño effects are likely to develop over North America during the upcoming winter season. Those include warmer-than-average temperatures over western and central Canada, and over the western and northern United States. Wetter-than-average conditions are likely over portions of the U.S. Gulf Coast and Florida, while drier-than-average conditions can be expected in the Ohio Valley and the Pacific Northwest.

The term El Niño refers to the large-scale ocean-atmosphere climate phenomenon linked to a periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central equatorial Pacific (between approximately the date line and 120 degrees west). El Niño represents the warm phase of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation, or ENSO, cycle, and is sometimes referred to as a Pacific warm episode. El Niño originally referred to an annual warming of sea surface temperatures along the west coast of tropical South America.

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2006									
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall
Climate Division 1 (NW)									
Cold Springs	78	29	24	18	58	34	46	1.96	6.00
Dayton	79	30	25	18	60	37	48	1.23	0.00
Desert Valley (precip. only)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Fallon NAS	81	29	23	18	65	39	52	1.83	0.00
Fernley	86	29	22	18	64	38	51	1.36	0.30
Flanigan	81	29	26	17	62	39	50	2.66	2.00
Flying M Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Gardnerville	79	29	20	18	63	33	48	1.10	0.00
Hay Creek	77	30	20	17	57	32	44	2.41	1.00
Hualapai	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Jacks Valley	76	29	28	2	61	38	50	1.59	
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	80	29	24	18	64	37	50	1.52	
Minden	79	29	22	1	61	35	48	1.61	1.00
Mogul	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Reno, N. Virginia	85	28	26	17	65	38	52	1.88	2.00
Sheridan Acres	79	29	23	18	62	37	50	1.73	0.70
Spanish Springs	79	29	22	18	61	35	48	2.46	
Sulphur	84	29	27	17	59	36	48	3.17	
Vya-Shoestring	72	29	20	18	52	29	41	2.44	
Washoe #10	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Wellington	80	29	21	18	63	35	49	0.63	0.00
Wilson Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 2 (NE)									
Jarbidge	73	28	18	17	55	30	43	2.97	14.90
Reese River	73	28	17	18	60	30	45	2.23	
Ruby Valley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 3 (Central)									
Belmont	72	29	16	6	53	30	42	2.34	
Gabbs	80	30	25	18	65	38	52	2.53	2.80
Goldpoint	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Manhattan	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Marietta	84	29	24	17	67	37	52	1.06	
Pioche - Lister Ranch	70	14	15	17	60	26	43	0.57	2.50
Schurz (precip. only)								0.86	0.00
Tonopah	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 4 (S)									
Boulder Beach	92	29	41	6	81	56	69	0.09	0.00
Las Vegas (NWS Station)	93	30	45	6	78	55	67	0.01	0.00
Lee Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Overton Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								0.21	0.00
California Stations									
Bare Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Janesville, CA	82	30	26	17	58	39	48	4.46	8.00
Tahoe Valley-Smith	66	29	16	18	50	28	39	3.92	21.30
Truckee/Tahoe AP Dist., CA	73	29	9	18	53	25	39	5.95	

* - Incomplete data m - Missing data
nr - Not Recorded

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2006									
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall
Climate Division 1 (NW)									
Cold Springs	89	16	29	29	73	39	56	0.39	0.70
Dayton	88	18	36	28	74	46	60	0.06	0.00
Desert Valley (precip. only)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Fallon NAS	94	16	35	28	80	49	64	0.17	0.00
Fernley	102	16	37	10					0.00
Flanigan	95	17	31	27	78	45	62	1.01	0.50
Flying M Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Gardnerville	89	16	25	28	76	38	57	0.33	0.50
Hay Creek	90	17	28	27	73	41	57	0.28	0.20
Hualapai	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Jacks Valley	90	16	34	4	75	46	61	0.12	
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	88	16	28	28	76	43	60	0.10	0.00
Minden	88	17	28	28	75	41	58	0.19	0.50
Mogul	93	17	34	10	76	43	59	0.16	0.00
Reno - Ashby	89	16	32	27	73	47	60	0.15	0.00
Sheridan Acres	87	17	30	28	76	43	60	0.35	2.00
Spanish Springs	89	17	34	27	75	41	58	0.20	
Sulphur	88	17	34	2	75	42	58	0.42	
Vya-Shoestring	88	18	28	2	68	37	52	0.64	0.00
Washoe #10	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Wellington	86	17	27	28	77	41	59	0.01	0.00
Wilson Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 2 (NE)									
Jarbidge	86	15	21	2	68	36	52	2.29	4.60
Reese River	86	17	22	10	74	35	54	0.70	
Ruby Valley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 3 (Central)									
Belmont	77	13	24	28	68	39	53	0.42	
Gabbs	92	16	0	31	78	46	62	0.17	0.00
Goldpoint	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Manhattan	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Marietta	94	16	30	28	81	45	63	0.26	0.00
Pioche - Lister Ranch	89	18	23	28	74	36	55	0.03	0.00
Schurz (precip. only)								0.05	0.00
Tonopah	89	14	30	6	77	44	61	0.11	0.00
Climate Division 4 (S)									
Boulder Beach	109	19	53	13	97	70	84	0.00	0.00
Las Vegas (NWS Station)	102	19	58	29	93	69	81	0.01	
Lee Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Overton Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								0.00	0.00
California Stations									
Bare Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Janesville, CA	92	18	34	28	75	48	62	0.42	0.00
Tahoe Valley - Smith	77	18	26	28	64	34	49	0.51	2.30
Truckee/Tahoe AP Dist., CA	84	17	24	28	68	31	50	0.47	0.00

* - Incomplete data m - Missing data
nr - Not Recorded

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2006									
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall
Climate Division 1 (NW)									
Cold Springs	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Dayton	98	26	45	14	85	55	70	0.04	0.00
Desert Valley (precip. only)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Fallon NAS	103	25	39	14	90	53	72	0.00	0.00
Fernley	108	25	46	14	92	57	74	0.14	0.00
Flanigan	106	25	44	14	91	55	73	0.19	0.00
Flying M Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Gardnerville	100	26	32	14	88	46	67	0.05	0.00
Hay Creek	102	26	43	1				0.05	0.00
Hualapai	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Jacks Valley	99	25	41	15	86	54	70	0.22	
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Minden	100	25	36	14	87	50	68	0.28	0.00
Mogul	104	25	43	14	91	53	72	0.12	0.00
Reno, N. Virginia	104	22	47	14	87	55	71	0.09	0.00
Sheridan Acres	98	26	38	14	87	52	69	0.01	0.00
Spanish Springs	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Sulphur	100	25	42	13	86	53	69	0.18	
Vya-Shoestring	92	25	33	3	79	44	62	0.24	0.00
Washoe #10	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Wellington	99	23	40	14	87	51	69	0.00	0.00
Wilson Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 2 (NE)									
Jarbidge	90	6	36	15	79	43	61	1.70	0.00
Reese River	95	23	29	16	86	41	64	0.09	
Ruby Valley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 3 (Central)									
Belmont	91	24	31	14	79	48	63	0.18	
Gabbs	107	25	43	14	93	56	75	0.03	0.00
Goldpoint	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Manhattan	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Marietta	104	24	41	14	95	56	75	0.00	0.00
Pioche - Lister Ranch	96	25-Jan	32	21	86	44	65	0.20	0.00
Schurz (precip. only)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Tonopah	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 4 (S)									
Boulder Beach	116	4	65	2	107	80	93	0.17	0.00
Las Vegas (NWS Station)	110	24	67	14	103	78	91	0.06	
Lee Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Overton Beach	117	25	59	1,12	107	67	87	0.14	
Sandy Valley (precip. only)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
California Stations									
Bare Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Janesville, CA	100	24	44	14	87	57	72	0.15	0.00
Tahoe Valley - Smith	83	25	31	10	73	41	57	0.16	0.00
Truckee/Tahoe AP Dist., CA	93	24	27	14	79	38	58	0.47	0.00

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